

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216906 TOSEC 250036

EXDIS FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 11203 ACTION SECSTATE 1 SEP 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11203

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMB JOVA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: ECHEVERRIA'S DESIRE TO PROVIDE YOU BRIEFING ON COLOMBO

REF: STATE 213806

1. ON YOUR VISIT HERE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA INTRODUCED HIS FORMER PRIVATE SECRETARY AND NOW ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY, JUAN JOSE BREMER, TO YOU INDICATING THAT HE MIGHT UTILIZE HIM TO BRIEF YOU ON THIRD WORLD/NON-ALIGNED DEVELOPMENTS. I BELIEVE YOU GAVE BREMER YOUR PRIVATE TELEPHONE NUMBER. BREMER HAS NOW JUST RETURNED FROM THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND AT THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION ASKED TO SEE ME YESTERDAY.

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2. BREMER TOLD ME THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD INSTRUCTED HIM

TO PLACE HIMSELF AT YOUR SERVICE AND HE WAS READY TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO GIVE YOU HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE. HE PROMISED TO BE BRIEF.

3. BREMER THEN PROCEEDED TO SUMMARIZE HIS IMPRESSIONS WHICH ACTUALLY ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN IN STATE 213806. HE STRESSED THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE EXTREME LEFTIST GROUP, WHICH OPENLY ADVOCATED CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE SOVIET LINE, MAINTAINING THAT THE USSR HAD BEEN THE BEST FRIEND OF THE NON-ALIGNEDS. THIS GROUP INCLUDED CUBA, THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AND THE NORTH KOREAN OBSERVER DELEGATION. THE CENTRIST GROUP, OF WHICH MEXICO CONSIDERED ITSELF A PART, ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN A POSITION OF EQUILIBRIUM. A MORE CONSERVATIVE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND PERU, ADVOCATED A MORE INDEPENDENT AND MODERATE LINE, PARTICULARLY ON POLITICAL MATTERS. WHILE THE POLITICAL DECLARATION HAD MANY RESERVATIONS, THERE WAS A GREATER CONSENSUS ON THE ECONOMIC SUBJECTS. THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF THE CONFERENCE WAS MARSHAL TITO AND HE PLAYED A VERY USEFUL MODERATING AND BALANCING ROLE. THERE WAS GENERAL CONCERN REGARDING TRENDS IN THE NAC ONCE TITO DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCENE. THESE CONCERNS WERE PARTICULARLY ACUTE AS THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN HAVANA AND THE HOST COUNTRY PREPARED MANY OF THE DRAFTS AND HAS GREAT INFLUENCE ON INTERPRETING THE RULES OF THE CONFERENCE, ETC.

4. I ASKED BREMER SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE AMBIENTE FOR THE ECHEVERRIA UNSYG CANDIDACY. BREMER MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS AN AMBIENTE AND HE WAS STRUCK BY THE PROMINENCE THAT BOTH MEXICO AND ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF HAD ATTAINED IN THIRD WORLD/NON-ALIGNED CIRCLES. ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF WAS MENTIONED BY NOT LESS THAN FIVE CHIEFS OF STATES IN THEIR SPEECHES AND THE CHARTER WAS MENTIONED IN NUMEROUS OF THE SPEECHES. ALL IN ALL, HE SAID, ECHEVERRIA, HAD ENOUGH OF A CHANCE TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE CONTINUING THE FIGHT. HE THOUGHT THAT SHOULD SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME CANDIDATES WIN THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE DISRUPTIVE;
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ECHEVERRIA, AFTER ALL, "WAS A MODERATE, WELL-BALANCED LEADER WHO, ALTHOUGH HE HAD ACQUIRED THIRD WORLD STATUS WAS BASICALLY A FRIEND OF THE U.S."

5. BREMER, WHO IS A BRIGHT AND ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LAWYER, IS ONE OF ECHEVERRIA'S INTIMATE ASSOCIATES. HE MAY WELL HAVE OTHER, DEEPER INSIGHTS INTO COLOMBO THAN GIVEN ABOVE BUT, IN ANY CASE, HE IS POISED AND READY TO GO TO

WASHINGTON AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.HE ALSO RAISED THE
POSSIBILITY THAT SHOULD PRESIDENT FORD GO TO
SAN ANTONIO WHEN ECHEVERRIA VISIT THERE SEPTEMBER 7 & 8
(AS THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS SPECULATE) AND SHOULD YOU
ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT, BREMER COULD SEE YOU IN SAN
ANTONIO.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS AS
TO HOW TO HANDLE THIS ECHEVERRIA/BREMER APPROACH.

7. IT WOULD ALSO BE MOST HELPFUL IF YOU COULD ADVISE
ME WHETHER THE PRESIDENT DOES IN FACT INTEND TO VISIT
SAN ANTONIO, AS I AM BEING QUESTIONED ON THIS BY
THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. ECHEVERRIA HAS STATED
PUBLICLY THAT IF PRESIDENT FORD DOES GO BOTH PRESIDENTS
WILL BE THERE AS GUESTS OF THE LADY MAYORESS OF SAN
ANTONIO AND THAT WHILE HE WISHES THAT PRESIDENT FORD
COULD JOIN HIM THERE, HE RECOGNIZES HOW BUSY HE
IS WITH BOTH HIS GOVERNMENT AND CAMPAIGN DUTIES.
JOVA
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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